

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Hunt, Joseph P., Farm

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number State Road 1514 N/A not for publication  
city, town Dexter X vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Granville code 077 zip code 27565

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>8</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>2</u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>12</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic and Architectural Resources of  
Granville County, N.C.Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

William S. Price, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

6-14-88

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National  
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwellingAgriculture/Subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwellingAgriculture/Subsistence**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek RevivalOther: vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls weatherboardroof asphaltother woodbrick

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

Set up a long gravel lane, across Goose Creek and behind a white picket fence, the Joseph P. Hunt House is a traditional two-story, one-room deep structure with a trim Greek Revival style finish. Turned south near the top of a gentle but steady rise, it surveys pastures to its front, intact log and frame outbuildings to its sides and further pastures - reclaimed from woodland that had itself once been cultivated fields - to its rear.

Built around 1844, the house sits on the cusp of two related, traditional nineteenth century forms - the squat two-story tall, one-room deep, hall-parlor plan of the first third of the nineteenth century, and the more attenuated center-hall plan, also two stories tall and one-room deep, of the mid and late century. Its form and finish utilize the common elements of these forms: three bays cross its front facade, the first floor of which is shaded by a Colonial Revival style porch built in the 1920s by Laurie Breedlove in place of the original porch; the decorative patternboards of two boxed cornices, and exterior brick chimneys with freestanding stacks - one dated December 3, 1853 - accent its flush gable ends; and an 1870s ell, sided by its own one-story porch, projects from its rear. The house's transitional nature is apparent at the slightly asymmetrical placement of its front bays, at its long nine-over-one, once nine-over-nine, first floor windows, and at its relatively squat form. Its plan, too, is caught in the shift from the hall-parlor to the full-blown center-hall. Said to have been built originally with only a hall and parlor downstairs, it was early altered to a center-hall plan, though its stair remained boxed.

Symmetrical, rectilinear lines are the heart of the Greek Revival style finish of the front block of the house and its 1870s two-story ell. Simple raised rectilinear surrounds enframe the interior and exterior openings of both floors of the ell and the second floor of the front block; the first floor of the front block is finished with flat-angled surrounds. Symmetrically and simply articulated post and lintel mantels serve the rooms of both house and ell. Now refinished, at least one of the mantels - that of the west downstairs room, the parlor - was once marbleized in black and gray. Flush-sheathed wainscoting, its central run of panels formed of immense hand-planed boards, adorns the downstairs and upstairs rooms of the front block. A variety of original flat-paneled doors are still in place in the plaster-walled front block of the house. Those of the downstairs

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of the front block have an unusual six panel arrangement of two pairs of vertical panels divided by single horizontal ones. The doors above are similarly finished, but with one less panel, the uppermost horizontal one. Two side by side vertical panels, the most common Greek Revival style door treatment in the county, mark the doors of the board-walled ell.

The two-story kitchen and dining room ell, as indicated by the presence of windows and weatherboards at the transverse hall that divides the ell from the main block, was a later addition to the house. It took the place of a detached structure that served the same purpose. A second stair rises from the transverse hall to a room above the dining room called the "peddler's room" by Hunt family descendants. It is said by the family that any peddler in the vicinity knew he would have a warm place to stay if he could reach the farm by nightfall. The room above the kitchen, called the "cook's room" by family descendants, was reached by yet another stair, which has since been removed. Originally cut off from the rest of the upstairs, the room's isolation was ended when a door was cut through the back of a closet in the peddler's room.

At the east side of the ell is a porch - screened in in recent years by the house's present owners, the Laursens - with a small rear enclosed room. Drawn in black ink on an interior board in this room, uncovered during work on the porch, is the statement "D. N. Hunt born July 20, 1859," which was perhaps written by Hunt when the ell was erected. To the west of the ell is a screened enclosure and a non-contributing house trailer, which was put in place five years ago by Bette Laursen to house her mother.

The 81 acre farm includes, besides the house ["A" on accompanying sketch map], trailer ["B"] and contributing pastures, nine neatly maintained contributing outbuildings that once served an extremely wide range of rural and farm activities. To the west of the house is a small, frame, late nineteenth century outbuilding [C] that was once an ordering house. Its weatherboards have been pulled away, revealing the infill of stone and clay that once insulated it. A second, smaller, insulated structure - the old potato house [G] - stands amidst the main body of outbuildings to the house's other side. Built of diamond-notched logs late in the nineteenth or early in the twentieth century, its roof is padded with a thick layer of

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sawdust. Three other similarly constructed log outbuildings stand on the property; a corn crib [F] probably built around the same time as the potato house and two tobacco barns [I and J] likely raised in the early twentieth century. Frame construction was used for the remaining four outbuildings: a small smokehouse [D] and large horse barn [H], both probably built in the early twentieth century; a substantial late nineteenth century packhouse [K]; and an unusual combination icehouse/carriage house [E], which was raised late in the nineteenth or early in the twentieth century. A dirt-walled ice pit, reached through thick doors set in the floor on one side of the building, was extended deep beneath the remainder of the latter building, allowing its floor to be used for carriages and equipment. The packhouse, too, has an unusual feature; painted on one of its walls is the declaration "Dont Spit in Here. Mar. 9. 1881," perhaps added when the building was used for the commencement exercises of a nearby black school.<sup>3</sup>

The farm also retains a contributing archaeological site, the site of the former Breedlove Mill [L]. A large building standing two or three stories tall on the northern bank of Goose Creek, it was operated by John Henry Breedlove. After his death in 1910 it was used for storage; all that remains of it now is part of its rock foundation.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>October 28, 1987, interview with Evelyn Breedlove, great-granddaughter of Joseph P. Hunt, who was raised on the farm.

<sup>2</sup>Interview with Evelyn Breedlove, October 28, 1987.

<sup>3</sup>Interview with Evelyn Breedlove, October 28, 1987. According to Ms. Breedlove there was a black school on the hill behind the house, on adjacent Breedlove property not included in this nomination. This hill - which tops out at 631 feet, approximately 100 feet higher than the house - was called "Breedlove's Mountain" or simply "The Mountain" and the school was accordingly called "The Mountain School." Ms. Breedlove remembers commencements being held in the packhouse early in the century.

<sup>4</sup>Interview with Evelyn Breedlove, October 28, 1987.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally    ☐ statewide    ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria    ☒ A    ☐ B    ☒ C    ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)    ☐ A    ☐ B    ☐ C    ☐ D    ☐ E    ☐ F    ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

ca. 1844-1937

Significant Dates

ca. 1844

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph P. Hunt Farm spans two of Granville County's major historical periods, its farmhouse built late in the plantation era, and its outbuildings raised in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the midst of the bright leaf era. With its mix of traditional forms and stylish Greek Revival finish, the farmhouse - built around 1844 for small planter Hunt - represents rural life and architectural form and fashion during the plantation era. (See Historic Context 1 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865 - and Property Type 2 - Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings) Continuing in use as the home of a bright leaf tobacco farmer after the Civil War, and complemented by an array of tobacco and other outbuildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the house and farm are also representative of rural life during the bright leaf era. (See Historic Context 2 - Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937 - and Property Type 6 - Outbuildings)

Joseph P. Hunt acquired 350 acres of land in the Abram's Plains District for \$800.00 in 1844 and shortly thereafter raised his dwelling [Deed Book 12, Page 485].<sup>1</sup> At the taking of the 1850 federal census, Hunt was 35 years old, his wife, Martha Crews (1820-1882), was 30, and their son and three daughters ranged in age from ten to two. Their ownership of six slaves placed<sup>2</sup> them in the middle of the slaveholding class in the county.

The house and farm remained in the Hunt family until 1970. It was passed on by the Hunts to their daughter, Susan (1846-1916), and her husband, John H. Breedlove [Will of Joseph P. Hunt, Book 23, Page 371; Deed Book 36, Page 62 (1882)], who in turn left it to their son and daughter-in-law, Laurie (1875-1929) and Rebecca (Rice) Breedlove [Deed Book 72, Page 493]. The last family members to own the house and farm were the Breedloves daughters, Mildred Lyon and Evelyn Breedlove, who inherited it from their mother in 1954 [Will Book 31, Page 484]. They sold it in 1970 [Deed Book 203, Page 46] and it was acquired by its present owners, Doan and Bette Laursen, in 1975 [Deed Book 207, Page 534].

The house is significant as a traditional structure in transition from the squat, two-story, one-room deep hall-parlor plan of the first third of the nineteenth century to the more attenuated center-hall plan of the remainder of the century.

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Relatively squat, with asymmetrically placed front bays and a boxed rather than open run of stairs, it nonetheless has a center hallway.<sup>3</sup> Its finish is also significant as a modest but almost complete use of the Greek Revival style, from the raised rectilinear and flat-angled moldings to the post and lintel mantels and flat-paneled doors. Even the Greek Revival finish of the house retains some earlier decorative elements, for instead of molded baseboards, the front block rooms are decorated with tall, flush-sheathed wainscoting.

Located in a striking swell of pasture, the house's outbuildings are significant for their representation of farm life and construction techniques during the bright leaf era. Built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, their construction runs the gamut from notched logs - the corn crib and tobacco barns - to frame - the smokehouse, icehouse/carriage house, horse barn and packhouse - to insulated frame and log - the ordering house and potato house, respectively. The packhouse retains a message on an interior wall - "Dont Spit in Here. Mar. 9. 1881" - which seems to confirm its purported early use as the commencement site for a nearby black school.<sup>4</sup> And the icehouse/carriage house is the only known outbuilding with such a dual usage surviving in the county. From commencements to ice cutting, to tobacco curing and carriage rides, the farm's outbuildings provide an unusually diverse image of rural life in the county during the bright leaf era.

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<sup>1</sup> Interview with Evelyn Breedlove, great-granddaughter of Joseph P. Hunt, October 28, 1987.

<sup>2</sup> At the taking of the next federal census in 1860, 532 of the county's 1,006 slaveholders owned between 2 and 9 slaves; the median holding was just under 7 slaves.

<sup>3</sup> Interview with Evelyn Breedlove, October 28, 1987.

<sup>4</sup> Interview with Evelyn Breedlove, October 28, 1987.

<sup>5</sup> Part of the journal of Laurie Breedlove (1875-1929), written during the harvest season around the turn of the century, also brings the bright leaf farm to life. In short, concise entries,



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Breedlove mentions suckering, putting up and curing tobacco; building tobacco barns on his farm and on those of his neighbors; pulling fodder; raising oats; making molasses; and finding "Mary our best milch cow in a mire dead a very heavy loss." He also talks about politics and elections; funerals; the weather; and visiting, and being visited by, friends.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)  
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings  
Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 81 acres

UTM References

A 

17	719820	4028870
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

17	720430	4029600
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

17	719820	4029600
Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

17	720140	4028950
Zone	Easting	Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Joseph P. Hunt Farm is the entire parcel on which it is located, as shown on the accompanying survey map of the property of Doan Laursen.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries which include the house, outbuildings, and fields that have been historically associated with the property, maintain historic integrity, and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The boundaries follow legally recorded property lines.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian  
organization Granville County-Oxford Historic Survey date 12/3/87  
street & number P.O. Box 1556 (State Hist. Pres. Off.) telephone 919-693-1491  
city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565

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Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Granville County Wills. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Interview with Evelyn Breedlove, August 21, 1986 and October 28, 1987, great-granddaughter of John P. Hunt.

Interview with Bette Laursen, October 24, 1987.

Journal of Laurie G. Breedlove, dated from turn of the century, in the possession of Doan and Bette Laursen, present owners of farm.

United States Manuscript Censuses. Microfilm located at Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.



